

Serial No.: 10/605,318
Confirmation No.: 2317
Applicant: JOHANSSON, Michael *et al.*
Atty. Ref.: 07589.0129.PCUS00

REMARKS:

IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, and 12 - 14 have been cancelled, claims 3, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 15 - 22 have been amended and entry requested for new claims 23 - 30. Amendments were made to satisfy objections to claims 11 and 20 - 22 and to overcome rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103 thereby providing claims in better condition for allowance. New claims 23 - 30 are believed to be allowable based on recitation of limitations not taught by the references relied on by the Office Action. Claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15 - 22 and 23 - 30 are pending in the present application.

Support for new claims 23 - 30 exists throughout the specification and claims. Reference to sequential monitoring exists for example at page 14, line 20 and Page 19, lines 13 and 21. The descriptive portion of the present application describes data set storage for different trailers at, for example page 4, line 1; page 15 line 12 and page 20, line 8.

CLAIMS OBJECTIONS

The Office Action raised objection to claims 11 and 20 - 22 because of informalities. Appropriate corrective action has been taken.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Summons et al. (WO 87/03548). Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the following:

TEACHINGS OF THE REFERENCE (SUMMONS ET AL.):

The reference of Summons et al. teaches an electronic circuit used to supply power to a load (turn signals) mounted on a vehicle that may include a trailer. A circuit of this type also adjusts the duration of flashing of turn signals, measures the electrical current involved in

Serial No.: 10/605,318
Confirmation No.: 2317
Applicant: JOHANSSON, Michael *et al.*
Atty. Ref.: 07589.0129.PCUS00

supplying power to the turn signals and uses a memory device to store values of electrical current required to power lamps used for signaling turns. Summons et al. also teaches means for comparing measured current values with those stored in memory.

Regarding rejection of claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 12 applicants admit the possibility that Summons et al. teaches some relevant limitations. However, this reference fails to teach sequential activation of components according to claim 13 of the present application.

According to the Office Action, Summons et al. teaches the limitation of claim 13 at page 11, lines 1 - 11 of the reference. As supplied, the cited portion of the copy of Summons et al. teaches a "timer means 15" for generating output pulses and a "comparator 16" adapted to continuously monitor real current and compare this to a value stored in memory 13. Implied limitations in this section of the reference are not part of claim 13, which requires sequential activation of selected electrical components allowing them to be monitored one by one. While Summons et al teaches activation of turn signal bulbs of a vehicle, including turn signals for an attached trailer, it does not suggest the capability for monitoring a sequence of bulbs wherein each bulb is isolated electrically for individual monitoring.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 12 and 13 have been cancelled and claims 3, 5, 10 and 11 have been amended. Following cancellation of claim 1 request is made for entry of new claim 23 that includes limitation to sequential activation of a plurality of components using a time interval that allows an operator to walk around a vehicle monitoring each component in a selected sequence. Summons et al. does not suggest external observation and monitoring of electrical components by a vehicle operator. Also claim 23 includes the limitation of an input device that the Office Action admits is absent from Summons et al.

In view of the above discussion, applicants request reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3, 5, 7, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Serial No.: 10/605,318
Confirmation No.: 2317
Applicant: JOHANSSON, Michael *et al.*
Atty. Ref.: 07589.0129.PCUS00

REJECTIONS UNDER - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Summons et al. in view of Kasprovicz.

Claim 6 includes the limitations of base claim 23. Evidence has been presented to show that claim 23 is allowable over Summons et al., whereby claim 6 should also be allowed. Further, Kasprovicz does not specifically teach "predicting the service life of a component," but rather discloses a condition requiring lamp replacement when the voltage drop falls below a minimum value (abstract).

In view of the evidence presented above, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 under 35 USC §103(a).

Claims 14 - 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Summons et al. in view of Traub.

Claim 14 has been cancelled and claims 15 - 20 include the limitations of new claim 30, which is believed to be allowable since it recites activation of "a plurality of electrical components for an activation time and in an activation sequence." Evidence has been given that Summons et al. lacks teaching of sequenced monitoring of components. Traub teaches testing of individual lights or groups of lights (see e.g. col. 7, lines 17 - 22) but provides no suggestion of testing lights in a sequence, one by one, as required by claim 30 of the present invention. Each key on the remote of Traub addresses a different component (see col. 3, lines 2 - 4), suggesting that an operator could select devices manually, one by one, but not benefit from the hands off approach provided by the present invention wherein a control system activates a sequence for component monitoring.

The combination of references does not provide basis for rejection of claims 15 - 20, as reasoned above. Therefore, the present invention is not obvious over Summons et al in view of Traub.

In view of the above, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 - 20 under 35 USC §103(a).

Serial No.: 10/605,318
Confirmation No.: 2317
Applicant: JOHANSSON, Michael *et al.*
Atty. Ref.: 07589.0129.PCUS00

Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Summons et al. in view of Traub as applied to claims 15 - 17, 19 and 20 above, and further in view of Kasprowicz.

Previous reasoning provides evidence that Summons et al. and Traub and Kasprowicz are flawed sufficiently to be ineffective for rejection of claims that contain limitations of a base claim (claim 30) that has been shown to be allowable over the applied references, whether alone or in combination.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 21 and 22 and withdrawal of the rejection thereof under 35 USC §103(a).

OTHER REFERENCES NOT RELIED UPON

Review of prior art made of record by the Office Action and not relied upon suggests that the references of Melendez and Hammerly fail to teach subject matter claimed by the present invention.

Having made an earnest attempt to respond to all the points included in the Office Action, applicants submit that cancellation of claims, amendment of claims and presentation of new claims places the application in condition for allowance. Consequently, request is respectfully made for reconsideration of the application and notification of allowance of claims 3, 5 -7, 10, 11 and 15 - 22 along with new claims 23 - 30 in the next paper from the Office.

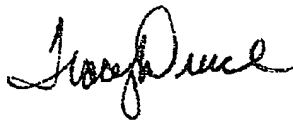
Serial No.: 10/605,318
Confirmation No.: 2317
Applicant: JOHANSSON, Michael *et al.*
Atty. Ref.: 07589.0129.PCUS00

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Order No. 7589.129.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy W. Druce
Patent Attorney
Reg. No. 35,493
Tel. 202.293.7333